

Early Learning Program Updates

- COVID and Weather Closures - If you have to close due to Covid or bad weather, please be sure to let us know. Please send your license number, closure and anticipated reopening dates, and who is effected (whole school, certain classrooms, # of children).
- Reporting Absences - All programs are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences. Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance.
- Keep your Child Care Availability Portal updated - Keeping your Child Care Availability Portal updated helps parents to quickly identify programs that have availability for their children. A survey to come.
- Update your Portal here:
<https://childcare.bowtiebi.com/Texaschildcareform>



Welcome to Texas Child Care Availability Portal

Please enter the email associated with your [Child Care Regulation](#) Online Account to update your availability and enrollment

Submit

NEW: Provider Services Q&A Training every 3rd Thursday of the month!

Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

- Workforce Solutions recently received funding from the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers in the following categories:
 - Child care Industry (teachers, caregivers, etc.)
 - Education (teachers, support staff, bus drivers, etc.)
 - Pharmacy and Healthcare Workers
 - First Responders
 - Critical Infrastructure (Grocery, Utilities, Trucking, etc.)
 - Other Infrastructure Workers (State and Local Government, Mail/Deliver Services, Banking, Gas Stations, Military, Restaurant and other Food Delivery, etc.)
- Families must live in Austin Full Purpose, meet the income guidelines, and have at least one parent working in a category above.
- Families must select a TRS quality rated center with this program.
- Providers are asked to provide true attendance for any child enrolled in this program.

Maximum Gross (Pre-Tax) Income to Participate	
Household Size	Yearly Income
2	\$63,300
3	\$71,200
4	\$79,100
5	\$85,450
6	\$91,800
7	\$98,100
8	\$104,450

Child Care Relief Fund 2022- Applications Sent!

The Texas Workforce Commission is **now accepting applications** for the 2022 [Child Care Relief Fund](#)! A total of \$3.45 billion is available for eligible child care providers across the state. **Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2022.**

Eligible providers received an email invitation directing them to the online application portal. Invitations were sent to the email address listed with Child Care Regulation. If you believe you are eligible but cannot find your invitation, check your spam or junk folder or reach out to the technical assistance team for help.

Agents are ready to answer questions and provide support free of charge in several languages between **7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday** and **8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday**. Providers can contact the technical assistance team by:

1. Emailing CCReliefFunds@Trelliscompany.org
2. Calling 1-833-613-3192
3. Chatting live with an agent at childcare.texas.gov



You can also sign up for their free, [interactive Q&A sessions](#) on understanding eligible expenses, offered by experienced business coaches.

Improving Business Practices for Family Child Care Programs



NATIONAL CENTER ON Early Childhood Quality Assurance

The Office of Child Care's National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is pleased to partner with Tom Copeland on three upcoming webinars on improving business practices for family child care (FCC) providers.

1. Business of Family Child Care: Marketing With Tom Copeland: April 6, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

FCC providers will acquire the knowledge and confidence to better promote their business and to succeed as a business.

2. Business of Family Child Care: Legal and Insurance Issues With Tom Copeland: April 20, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

FCC providers will learn how to protect the children in their care, their property, and themselves.

3. Business of Family Child Care: Money Management/Retirement With Tom Copeland: May 4, 2022, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

FCC providers will learn how to save more money for retirement and will learn how to invest using the various IRA plans available.



Business Coaching Available

The Texas Workforce Commission has launched a FREE business coaching program in partnership with AVANCE, Curantis Group, and Civitas Strategies Early Start to support child care providers with strategies to stabilize and strengthen your business.

The Texas Child Care Coaching Team is providing free assistance to any child care provider in the state.

Providers can receive support with a variety of topics:

- Securing federal relief funding;
- Support with loan forgiveness and debt repayment applications;
- Budgeting;
- Marketing;
- Improving payment and collections;
- Reducing costs;
- Strengthening systems;
- Staffing strategies;
- and more!

If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out to the Texas Child Care Coaching team at Texas@ECEBizCoach.org.



**Attention Center & Home-Based
Child Care Providers**

**Business
Coaching Now
Available!**

Get FREE Business Coaching

Child Care Providers can now receive free business coaching to help navigate the financial and operational impacts of the pandemic. Through this goal-based coaching experience you will receive strategies to help you strengthen revenue, decrease expenses, and address risks that your business may face.

Business coaching will be offered in partnership by
AVANCE, Curantis Group, and Civitas Strategies Early Start.



WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS Capital Area
Connecting People to Jobs

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Available!

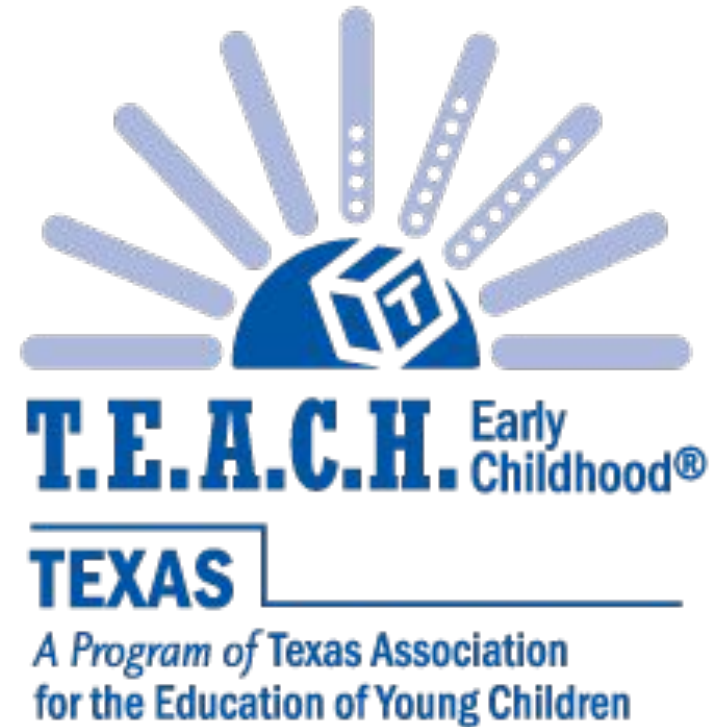
Are you or your staff looking to earn your credential or degree?
It's more possible than ever!

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas is a comprehensive scholarship model designed to retain early childhood professionals through increasing their education and compensation. Their scholarships utilize a cost-sharing model that creates a partnership between the scholarship recipient, their employer, and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas.

Eligibility Criteria:

- High School Diploma or GED
- Earn less than \$20 per hour
- Employed at least 30 hours/week at a licensed child care center OR licensed or registered family child care home **located within the City of Austin and Travis County.**

To learn more about the program, please visit their website or email teach@texasaeyc.org and please indicate you are a City of Austin-Travis County provider in your email.



<https://www.texasaeyc.org/programs/teach>

Quality Initiatives

- Training Opportunities Posted
 - **In-Person Training is back!**
 - 2021-22 Training Calendar posted on our Website (www.wfscapitalarea.com)
 - Upcoming Trainings posted through April for registration including:
 - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
 - The 360 Approach to Evaluation (April 9th, In-Person)
- Texas Rising Star Programs
 - Please join us at our monthly TRS Director Meetings on the first Thursday of the month from 12-2pm or 6-8pm.
 - Our next TRS Director Meetings will be on April 7th.
 - TRS assessments have resumed.



BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts

Topics/Questions	Contact Information
<u>Parent Inquires</u> - parents are interested in services, want to sign up for waitlist, need changes, etc.	austinccs@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Finance Team</u> - questions about payments, missing dates, full time/blended amounts, etc.	ccsfinance@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Provider Services</u> - updated your DOSS, attendance, rates, holidays, etc.	ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Quality Initiatives</u> - want to become a TRS provider, have questions about the process, PPR distribution, training, etc.	ccsquality@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Local Referral Partners</u> – send in referral, become a referral partner, etc.	ccslocalreferral@wfscapitalarea.com